

Section 4 Demographics and Economic Future

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Demographics and Economic Future

4.1 Introduction

The economy of the basin is growing rapidly, especially in the St. George area. Gradual increases or stability are also noted in other communities. Washington County has experienced large population gains during the last two decades.

As the basin economy expands, planning at all levels of government will require reliable information on the supply and demand for water. This section will present information to help local leaders anticipate the need for timely water resources development. Combining this information with the latest technology for delivering, using and conserving available water should result in coordinated planning and manageable economic growth.

Employment increases have been substantial in Washington County with the trade and service sectors tending to dominate. Tourism and retirement have had a major impact. The economy of the area is expected to continue to expand, reducing the out-migration of the youthful labor force and providing conditions for growth in the

The Kanab/Creek Virgin River Basin covers most of Washington County, western Kane County and a small part of southern Iron County. The major population center is St. George in Washington County. Kanab, located in the Kanab Creek drainage, has the largest population in Kane County.

manufacturing and professional services sectors.

4.2 Demographics

While Utah's overall growth rate is expected to be 1.7 percent through 2020, the Washington County rate is expected to be 3.44 percent annually. The 1990 population for the Utah portion of the Lower Colorado River Basin is 52,742. By 2020 the total is projected to be 158,381. This reflects an average annual growth rate of 3.38 percent per year. Population and projections shown in Table 4-1 and

Figure 4-1 are for cities in the Kanab Creek/Virgin River Basin in Utah. Hurricane and St. George divisions are the major growth areas; combined, they will triple by 2020. These projections were provided by the Utah Office of Planning and Budget. Divisions are a geographic grouping of communities for population planning purposes.

The Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget has developed procedures and criteria for making population projections. The Utah Process Economic and Demographic (UPED) model is part of this. The UPED projection model takes into account many variables regarding the demographics and industry mix of an area. The model incorporates historical employment growth rates into the future growth patterns, along with assumptions regarding labor force participation rates, non-employment related migration rates and constant age-specific fertility and survival rates. The transient and part-time population occupying the relatively large number of hotel rooms and condominiums in Washington County are not counted in the UPED, but the employment associated with serving this population is included.

Additional population projections were made to aid in estimating long-range municipal water requirements in the next 50 years. These projections assumed a constant annual growth rate beyond the year 2020 of 2.8 percent. This means by the year 2040, the population of Washington County would increase to about 261,000 and the basin population would increase to about 275,000.

Other population projections have been made locally. They show a larger rate of increase, and they will be used by local officials in their planning process.

4.3 Employment

Employment will likely continue the growth that began during the last decade when the service, transportation, communications and public utilities sectors registered 15 percent annual increases, respectively. Manufacturing, construction and trade showed annual increases of 6-10 percent, while agriculture, mining, government and finance, insurance and real estate increased less than six percent. This is derived from data shown in Table 4-2 and Figure 4-2. Agricultural on-farm employment is expected to continue to decline while agricultural services are expected to increase, but at a declining rate.¹

Annual growth rates for all sectors in Washington County, except agriculture, are expected to increase at an average of almost

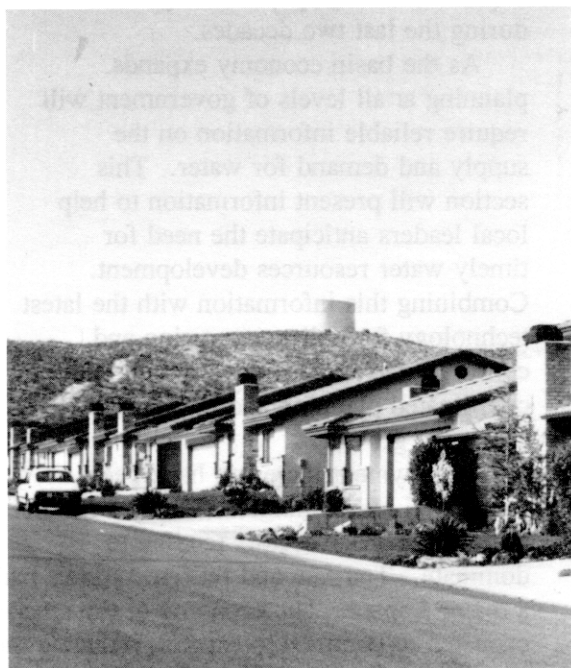
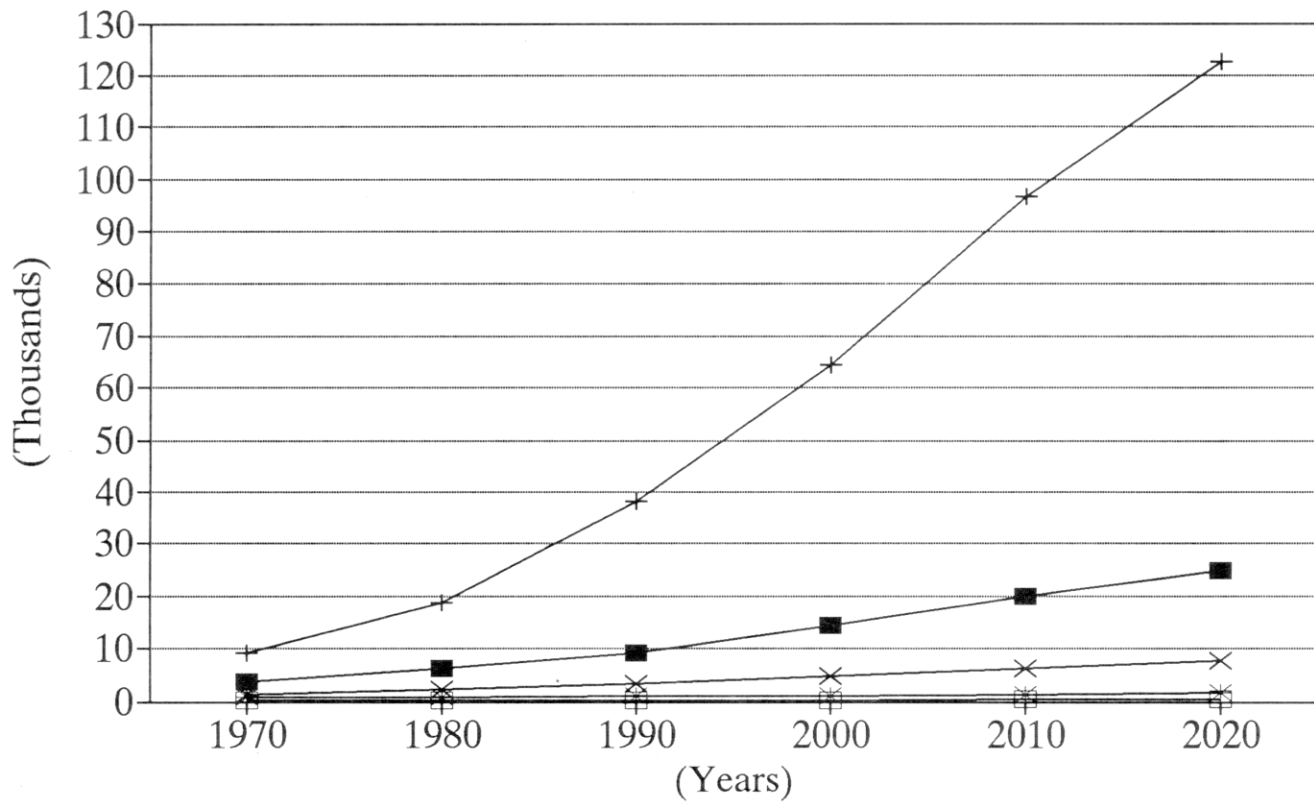


TABLE 4-1
POPULATION AND PROJECTIONS

City	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Hurricane Division	3,682	6,329	9,174	14,302	20,024	24,834
Hildale	480	1,009	1,325	2,085	2,919	3,613
Hurricane	1,408	2,660	3,915	6,111	8,522	10,526
La Verkin	463	1,174	1,771	3,045	4,481	5,704
Leeds	151	218	254	352	467	566
New Harmony	78	117	101	134	176	213
Rockville	na	156	182	241	315	380
Springdale	182	258	275	373	492	595
Toquerville	185	277	488	750	1,038	1,278
Virgin	119	169	229	326	437	531
Unincorporated	616	291	634	885	1,177	1,428
St. George Division	9,055	18,754	38,227	64,429	96,798	122,604
Ivins	137	600	1,630	3,592	6,457	9,186
Santa Clara	271	1,091	2,322	4,107	6,139	7,720
St. George	7,097	13,146	28,502	46,444	68,176	84,986
Washington	750	3,092	4,198	8,050	12,901	16,869
Unincorporated	800	825	1,575	2,236	3,125	3,843
Enterprise Division*	948	982	1,159	1,572	2,112	2,597
Wash. County Total	13,685	26,065	48,560	80,303	118,934	150,035
Orderville Division	738	833	902	1,073	1,365	1,602
Glendale	200	237	282	348	450	531
Orderville	399	423	422	480	601	699
Unincorporated	139	173	198	245	314	372
Kanab Division	1,683	3,191	4,267	5,916	8,029	9,677
Kanab	1,381	2,148	3,289	4,565	6,199	7,474
Alton	62	75	93	115	149	176
Unincorp. (Johnson Wash)	240	814	559	781	1,062	1,281
Big Water*	NA	154	326	455	619	746
Kane County Total	2,421	4,024	5,169	6,989	9,394	11,279
Kanarraville	204	255	228	281	346	410
Basin Total	15,362	29,208	52,742	85,546	125,943	158,381

* Not in basin. Source: Utah Office of Planning and Budget

FIGURE 4-1
Population and Projections



LEGEND

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ■ HURRICANE DIV. | + ST. GEORGE DIV. | * ORDERVILLE DIV. |
| □ KANARRVILLE TOWN | x KANAB DIVISION | |

TABLE 4-2
WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS BY MAJOR INDUSTRY

Industry	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Agriculture ^a	480	491	587	668	746
Mining	70	106	117	158	202
Construction	540	917	1,918	2,586	3,199
Manufacturing	700	1,562	2,082	2,773	3,515
TCPU ^b	230	868	1,769	2,317	2,864
Trade	1,930	4,416	7,639	10,774	13,456
FIRE ^c	410	518	1,030	1,460	1,787
Services ^d	930	3,676	6,708	9,869	12,760
Government	1,680	2,677	4,112	6,308	8,044
Non-Farm Proprietors ^e	1,240	2,619	4,311	6,185	7,955
Total Employment	8,210	17,850	30,273	43,098	54,528
Non-Ag W&S Employment ^a	6,150	14,813	25,375	36,245	45,827

^aIncludes agriculture services.

^bTransportation, communications and public utilities.

^cFinance, insurance and real estate.

^dIncludes private household and agricultural services employment; excludes other agricultural and non-farm proprietors employment.

^eUtah Department of Employment Security's definition.

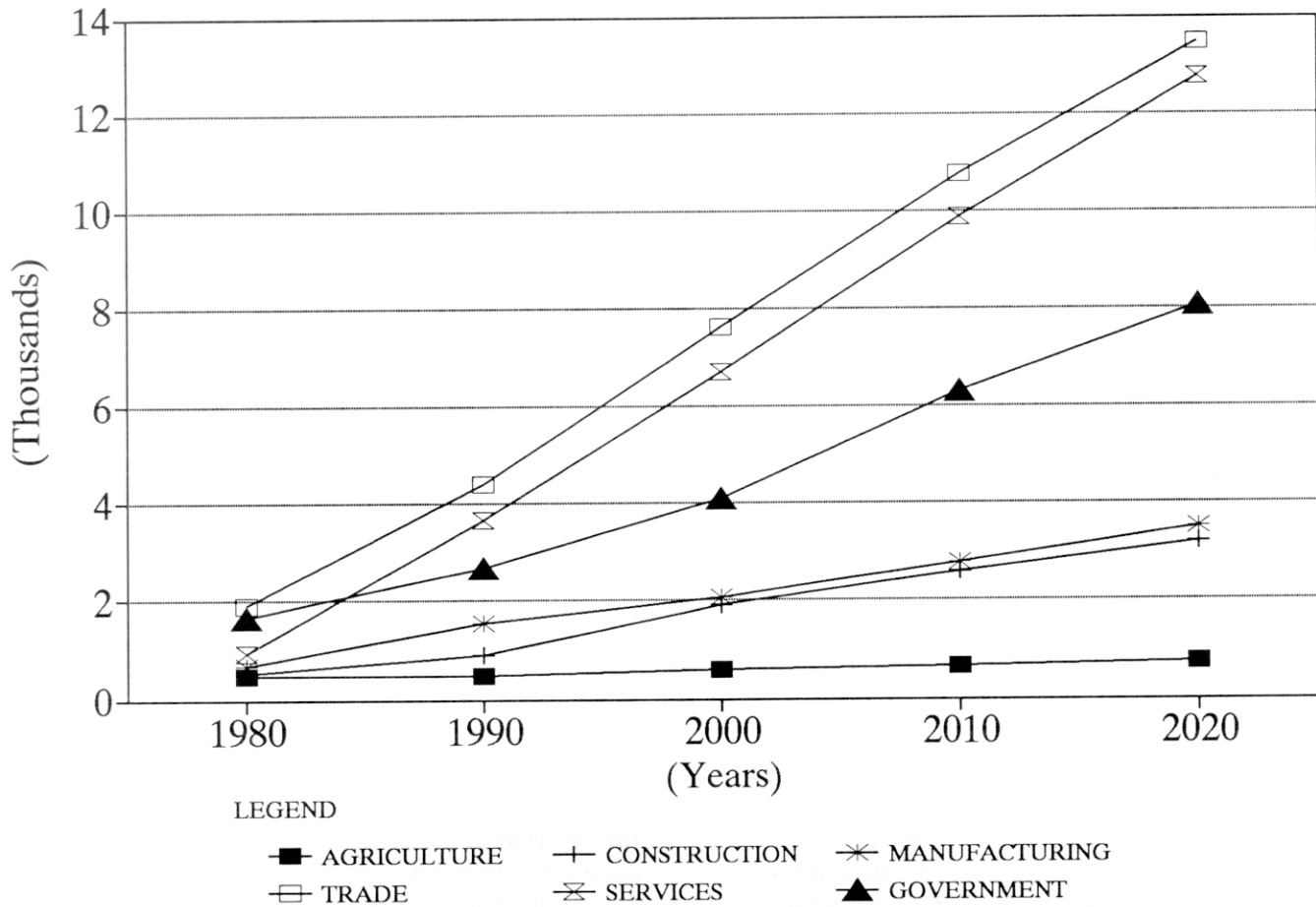
four percent per year. This applies only to Washington County because data are not available for the communities in Kane County.

are expected to locate in Washington and Kane counties to take advantage of the labor force, education, climate and other local resources. ■

4.4 Economic Future

Southwestern Utah will grow as an economic force as recreation, retirement living, tourism and industrial expansion continue. Additional manufacturing firms

FIGURE 4-2
Employment and Projections



Note: Washington County Only

4.5 References

1. Bureau of Economic and Business Research, Graduate School of Business, University of Utah. *1990 Statistical Abstract of Utah*. Salt Lake City, Utah, January 1990.
2. Utah Office of Planning and Budget. *State of Utah Economic and Demographic Projections, 1990*. Salt Lake City, Utah, December, 1989.
3. United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources. *Virgin River Basin - Utah Cooperative Study: Socioeconomic, Recreation, Visual, Historical, and Archaeological Resources Appendix*. Salt Lake City, Utah, August 1990.